

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00438 041139Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 /077 W
-----041158Z 020526 /15

R 040920Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7827
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0438

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR PFOR LA TH
SUBJECT: LAO-THAI FLIGHTS STILL UP IN THE AIR

REF A VIENTIANE 398, B BANGKOK 4411, C BANGKOK 4331

1. LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD POLOFF MARCH 4 THAT FLIGHTS BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND BANGKOK WOULD DEFINITELY RESUME MARCH 15 OR 17. ASKED IF THIS WERE CERTAIN, HE REPLIED YES AND ADDED THAT POLOFF COULD CHECK WITH THAI DIPLOMAT. BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND THAI AIRWAYS COMPANY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THEY UNAWARE OF ANY DATE FOR RESUMPTION OF FLIGHTS.

2. WESTERNER WHO WORKS WITH LAO AVIATION ALSO UNAWARE OF ANY DATE FOR RESUMPTION OF FLIGHTS BUT SAID THAT LAO AVIATION HAD SENT "ULTIMATUM" TO TAC BANGKOK INSISTING THAT IT AGREE BY A CERTAIN DATE TO LAO HANDLING TAC TICKET SALES IN LPDR. SHE DID NOT SAY WHAT LAO PLANNED TO DO IF THAI DID NOT ACCEPT
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UTLTIMATUM.

3. COMMENT: NOW THAT LAO HAVE BEGUN FLIGHTS TO HANOI MARCH 3, THEY ARE PROBABLY ANXIOUS TO BEGIN GOING TO BANGKOK AS WELL. AS REPORTED REF A, HOWEVER, THAI MAY BE IN NO HURRY TO RESUME FLIGHTS TO VIENTIANE SINCE THEY ARE MAKING MONEY ON RUNS TO UDORN. THIS ACCORDS

WITH STATEMENT REF B BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH THAI COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO INDICATED THAT TAC IS UNHAPPY ABOUT LAO INSISTENCE ON HANDLING TAC SALES IN LPDR. THIS IN TURN, HOWEVER, DOES NOT SQUARE WITH STATEMENT BY THAI FOREIGN MINISTER REF C THAT TAC IS SATISFIED WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT.

4. KEY QUESTION SEEMS TO BE WHETHER THAI FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS OF RESUMING ONLY NON-COMMUNIST AIR SERVICE TO LPDR AND ALLOWING LAO TO FLY TO BANGKOK WILL OUTWEIGHT COMMERICAL WORRIES ABOUT REMISSION OF TAC TICKET PROCEEDS TO THAILAND. FOR THE MOMENT WE REMAIN SKEPTICAL ABOUT EARLY RESUMPTION OF FLIGHTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR ROUTES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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To: STATE
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